

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-13 HA-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02
SS-15 ICA-11 /082 W
-----011923 301126Z /16

P R 301048Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1298
INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN
AMCONSUL DURBAN
AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

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CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, SHUM, SF
SUBJECT: BLACK JOURNALIST ENOCH DUMA ACQUITTED

REF: PRETORIA 2018 AND PREVIOUS

1. THE SEVEN WEEK TRIAL OF ENOCH DUMA, "SUNDAY TIMES" REPORTER, AND AITKEN RAMUDZULI, SOWETO SCHOOL TEACHER, ON TERRORIST ACT AND SABOTAGE CHARGES, CONCLUDED IN KRUGERSDORP ON MAY 29. DUMA WAS ACQUITTED OF ALL CHARGES AND RELEASED. RAMUDZULI WAS FOUND GUILTY ON TWO CHARGES UNDER THE TERRORISM ACT AND IS TO BE SENTENCED ON MAY 30.

2. SINCE PREVIOUS REPORT REFTEL, THE COURT HAD LISTENED TO A PARADE OF WITNESSES WHO DETAILED RAMUDZULI'S ACTIVITIES OF LIAISON WITH THE BANNED ANC, TRAVELLING TO AND FROM BOTSWANA AND ALLEGEDLY TRANSPORTING EXPLOSIVES. NO EVIDENCE WAS LAID THAT DIRECTLY CONNECTED DUMA, ALTHOUGH IT WAS ALLEGED THAT HE KNEW THE OTHER ACCUSED AND WAS
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AWARE OF THE ACTIVITIES IN WHICH HE WAS INVOLVED. DUMA DID NOT DENY THIS BUT SAID HE FOLLOWED THESE ACTIVITIES AS PART OF HIS JOURNALISTIC RESPONSIBILITIES AND AT NO TIME TOOK PART IN EVENTS INTENDED TO OVERTHROW THE STATE.

3. IN A TERSELY WORDED, TWO-HOUR STATEMENT, THE JUDGE ACKNOWLEDGED THAT NO FACTS HAD BEEN PRESENTED THAT

PROVED DUMA GUILTY BUT INTIMATED THAT HE FELT DUMA GUILTY BY IMPLICATION AND ONLY THE ADVISE OF THE COURT ASSESSORS HAD PREVENTED DUMA FROM BEING CHARGED.

4. UNLIKE PREVIOUS SESSIONS, SPECIAL BRANCH POLICE WERE PRESENT IN AND AROUND THE COURT IN CAMOFLAGE UNIFORM, ARMED AND WITH PATROL DOGS. THE CROWD WAS SMALL AS BEFORE - MOSTLY FAMILY AND FRIENDS - AND NO INCIDENTS OCCURRED. DUMA WAS IN GOOD HEALTH AND VISIBLY MOVED BY THE ACQUITTAL. HE TOLD EMBOFF THAT HE APPRECIATED OUR CONCERN AND MADE A DATE FOR A MORE DETAILED DEBRIEFING OF HIS TIME IN PRISON. DUMA SAID HE PLANNED A SHORT REST AT HOME AND THEN A RETURN TO WORK. HE SAID THE WHOLE AFFAIR HAD CHANGED HIM AND HE WOULD BE EVEN MORE DEDICATED TO "STANDING UP FOR THE TRUTH."
EDMONDSON

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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